

And I thank my caucus. Thank you, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN; thank you, Mr. LARSON, for your nomination this morning. Thank you to the Members of the caucus for granting me the historic opportunity of breaking the marble ceiling and to serve, once again, as the first woman Speaker of the House.

Leader BOEHNER, thank you for your generous words and for your commitment to put country ahead of party. Without reservation, let us stand together, not just today, but in the days ahead to live up to that resolve.

Few Congresses and few Presidents in history have been given the responsibility and the privilege of serving the Nation in a time of such profound challenge. We do so renewed and refreshed by the new Members who join our ranks today. Again, welcome to our new Members.

It is in that spirit that I pledge to you—let us all pledge to the American people that we will look forward, not backward; we will join hands, not point fingers; we will rise to the challenge, recognizing that our love of country is stronger than any issue which may divide us.

This is the lesson and the legacy of the last election: The American people demanded a new era of change and accountability. Yes, we have problems as grave as our country has faced in generations. But now we enter a new Congress with a new era with a powerful sense of hope and pride in our great country.

Two weeks from today, as Mr. BOEHNER indicated, on the steps of this Capitol, we will inaugurate the 44th President of the United States. From the inaugural platform, he will walk down the long stretch of the National Mall and see the steps of the Lincoln Memorial from which Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., called us to the deepest truth of our founding dream.

When Barack Obama raises his right hand and takes the oath of office, we will know—and the world will witness—how far America has come. We will celebrate that moment, but recognize it as only a beginning.

Together, with our new President, we, as a Congress and a country, must fulfill the rest of America's promise.

All of that promise will not be redeemed quickly or easily, but it must be pursued urgently with spirited debate and without partisan deadlock or delay.

Hardworking and still hopeful Americans who are losing their jobs, their businesses, their retirement savings, their homes that are facing foreclosure, cannot wait any longer for us to move from the depths of a recession to the solid ground of an honest and fair prosperity for the many, not just the few.

We need action, and we need action now.

Families and children without health care, and millions more who fear losing coverage or who are facing rising costs, cannot afford to wait any longer.

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States facing financial crises, which are threatening the education and the health of our children, the well-being of our seniors, and the public safety of our communities, cannot afford to wait any longer.

We need action, and we need action now.

Our country is challenged by the climate crisis, by the need for energy security, and the need for 21st-century infrastructure. On all of these issues and many more, we cannot afford to wait.

Our Nation needs action, and we need action now.

America's crises at home are matched by conflicts abroad—a terrorist threat that could strike there or here. We cannot afford to wait to renew our alliances, our leadership, and our respect in the world. We cannot afford to wait to deploy the power of our ideals. For the sake of our security, for the courageous Americans who serve on the front lines, and for our veterans who have bravely served our country, we cannot afford to wait to modernize and rebuild our military.

Every chance we get we must express our appreciation to our heroic men and women in uniform and their families for their service and their sacrifice to our country.

Let us show America and the world that we are equal to every test of a turbulent and unprecedented time. Let us listen to each other. Let us respect every voice and every view, and then together, let us act.

□ 1415

As we in Congress pledge to reach across the aisle, we recognize that history will measure this decisive moment not just by what we do here in Washington, but how we reflect and respect how all Americans work together for the common good to strengthen America's future and faith in itself.

As we take the oath of office today, we accept a level of responsibility as daunting and demanding as any that previous generations of leadership have faced. With the help of God, the light of our values, the strength of the American people, and the hopes that we have for our children and their future, God will bless us so that America will continue to be as our Founders predicted more than 200 years ago, "a rising not a setting sun."

Today, Cardinal McCarrick honored us by asking God's blessing on our work. May God bless our work, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all.

I am now ready to take the oath of office as Speaker. Before I call the Dean of the Congress forward, I want to invite my grandchildren and any other children in the Congress—they've asked me can we come up again this year. They certainly can.

Now, it is my privilege to ask the Dean of the House of Representatives,

the Honorable JOHN DINGELL of Michigan, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Ms. PELOSI of California, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Mr. DINGELL. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. I want to thank the children for joining me at the podium so that, as we called the House to order earlier today, it will be clear that the House will be called to order for all of America's children. And now I am going to administer the oath of office to your parents. You are welcome to stay here, or you may wish to join your parents as they take the oath of office.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to precedent, the Chair will swear in the Members-elect en masse.

The Members-elect and Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 111th Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as majority leader the gentleman from Maryland, master of the procedures of this floor, the Honorable STENY H. HOYER.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House of Representatives officially that the Republican Members have selected as minority leader the gentleman from Ohio, the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER.